

[4th March 1926]

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“ My question has not been answered. My question is whether the Government have issued instructions to their educational officers to consult local boards and district educational councils. (After a pause) I have twice repeated the question and yet the hon. the Minister has not answered it.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ In the case of difference of opinion between these people, may I know whose opinion will prevail ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ I am not able to follow, Sir. Difference of opinion between whom ? ”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ Between the district educational officer and the president of the local board.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ When the matter comes up, the Government will finally decide.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“ Seeing that the hon. the Minister has not answered my question, I would ask this question. Has the attention of the hon. the Minister been drawn to the fact that the report on the educational survey of the Nellore district was to the effect that there were no places for schools being started and that such a report was made without consulting the local boards or the district educational council ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ The district educational officers are very able and experienced officers and their opinion of the educational survey was accepted by the Government.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“ Apart from the ability of any educational officer, I wish to know whether the Government have countenanced the sending up of proposals for expansion of education without consulting their own creatures—the district educational councils or the local bodies.”

Excise.

Alleged illegal sale of toddy at Pudupalayam village.

* 1514 Q.—Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there was an open illegal sale of toddy at Pudupalayam in Tiruchengodu taluk (Salem district) on the local Mariamman festival day on 9th December 1925 last which was reported in the *Hindu* of the 22nd December 1925; and

(b) whether the Akkari officers have held any enquiry and whether they have been able to book the offenders ?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information but a report has been called for.

Mr. V. PANTULU AYYAR :—“ Sir, the *Hindu* published a report of the occurrence as early as 22nd December 1925 and I myself have drawn the attention of the Government three months back. Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state how this inexplicable delay has arisen in obtaining information on a matter of such public importance as a breach of law and why no information has been collected and no action taken as yet ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ A report has been called for, Sir.”

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Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ May I ask the hon. Minister whether he was informed or is otherwise aware that the people residing in the Asramam near which place the man was caught red-handed, collected evidence and placed it before the Assistant Commissioner of Excise to prove this transaction ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ I repeat, I have no information nor am I aware of it.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether the Government are aware that such illicit sales are very common in cocoanut topes where toddy is tapped ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Where ? In what part of the Presidency ? ”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ I have travelled through several districts, Salem, Coimbatore, North Arcot, South Arcot, Tanjore, Madura, etc.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Pudupalayam in Tirachengodu is quite enough for us this morning.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ Very well, Sir. Confining my attention to Salem district alone, it is very common in Salem district as there are several cocoanut topes. Now, may I know whether the Government have taken any effective steps to prevent such illicit sales ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ Yes, it is very unfortunate and regrettable that a good deal of illicit distillation of arrack and toddy is going on in Salem, Coimbatore and some other places. To stop this kind of thing, a new circle has been formed to strengthen the preventive staff.”

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—“ May I know whether the report was called for before or after the question was received ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ On receipt of the question the report was called for.”

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—“ That is how the attention of the officers is drawn to such practices.”

Mode of search by Abkari officers.

* 1515 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state what action has been taken on the following prayer made by the Committee of the Kanara Indian Christian Civic League to the hon. the Minister during his visit to Mangalore in November last ? —

“ That the hon. Minister be pleased to move that an Excise officer, before making a search of a house or open place and before seizing any article, shall call upon two or more respectable inhabitants of the locality in which the place to be searched is situated to attend and witness the search.”

A.—The existing law requires that searches by Abkari officers should be made in the presence of witnesses and this in practice is being done. The Government do not therefore propose to take any action in the matter.